

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 OIC-02 /144 W
-----009062 060556Z /21

O 060530Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5311
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
CINCPAC HONOLULU PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY PRIORITY
AMEMBESSY SEOUL PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SUVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 01734

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD, TOKYO FOR RFO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, EFIS, FJ, NZ

SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY:

- FIJIAN REVERSAL

SUMMARY: THE GOVERNMENT OF FIJI HAS REPORTEDLY PERFORMED A
TURN-ABOUT ON THE QUESTION OF A SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL
FISHERIES AGENCY, CASTING THE ENTIRE CONCEPT INTO SOME
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DOUBT. THE FIJIAN POSITION IS TO BE COMMUNICATED TO
AUSTRALIA, NZ AND PNG TODAY IN GENEVA. END SUMMARY

1. GNZ FONMIN ADVISED THE EMBASSY TODAY OF A POLICY RE-
VERSAL BY FIJIAN PRIME MINISTER RATU MARA WHICH ON ITS FACE
APPEARS TO BE A SIGNIFICANT SETBACK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY (SPRFA).

2. ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCES, THE FIJIAN POLICY WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND APRIL 5 IN GENEVA. FIJI ARGUES THAT: (A) SPRFA SHOULD BE SET UP WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION (SPC) RATHER THAN THE SOUTH PACIFIC BUREAU FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION (SPEC) OR FORUM; (B) NOT ONLY IS THE PNG

"TWO TREATY" APPROACH UNSATISFACTORY, BUT THERE IS NO NEED FOR ANY RPT ANY REGIONAL FISHERY CONVENTION; (C) THE LOS TEXT WILL INCORPORATE PRINCIPLES OF COASTAL STATE SOVEREIGNTY AND THUS OBIATE THE NEED FOR A SEPARATE REGIONAL CONVENTION; AND (D) IN ANY EVENT, THE GOVERNMENT OF FIJI HAS SERIOUS MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE DRAFT SPRFA CONVENTION.

3. ELABORATING ON THE FINAL POINT, THE FIJIAN SOURCE IS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD THE NEW ZEALANDERS IN SUVA THAT FIJI CANNOT ACCEPT THE PROPOSITION THAT DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CAN PARTICIPATE ONLY THROUGH THE METROPOLITANS. THEY SAY ALL GOVERNMENTS AND TERRITORIES MUST BE TREATED AS EQUALS. FURTHER, THEY HAVE DIRECTLY ATTACKED THE IDEA OF USG PARTICIPATION, SAYING IT WOULD POSE A MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK AND THAT FIJI IS NOT PREPARED TO COMPROMISE.

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MISE IN ANY WAY ON THE PRINCIPLE OF COASTAL STATE SOVEREIGNTY.

4. THE FIJIAN SOURCE (BELIEVED TO BE KOTOBALAVU) REPORTEDLY MADE SOME ADDITIONAL VAGUE REFERENCE TO THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OF A REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY AND WONDERED ALOUD ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE SPC SKIPJACK TUNA SURVEY IF A SEPARATE FORUM AGENCY WERE SET UP.

5. MFA UNDERSTANDS RATU MARA HAS WRITTEN TO PNG PRIME MINISTER SOMARE ALONG THE FOREGOING LINES.

6. EMBASSY COMMENT: THE NEW ZEALAND MFA IS STILL TRYING TO PULL DETAILS ON THE FIJIAN POSITION TOGETHER BUT IS UNDERSTANDABLY VERY CONCERNED THAT IT WILL THROW COLD WATER ON THE IDEA OF ANY REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY. THEY BELIEVE THE SIMPLE AND LOGICAL EXPLANATION FOR THE FIJIAN TURN-ABOUT IS THAT RATU MARA HAS JUST NOW BECOME INTERESTED IN THE SPRFA AND FOCUSED ON THE PROGRESS WHICH HAS SO FAR BEEN ACHIEVED. SUVA MAY HAVE ADDITIONAL DETAILED INFORMATION ON THIS MATTER. SELDEN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: PLOS, EFIS, XP, NZ, FJ
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